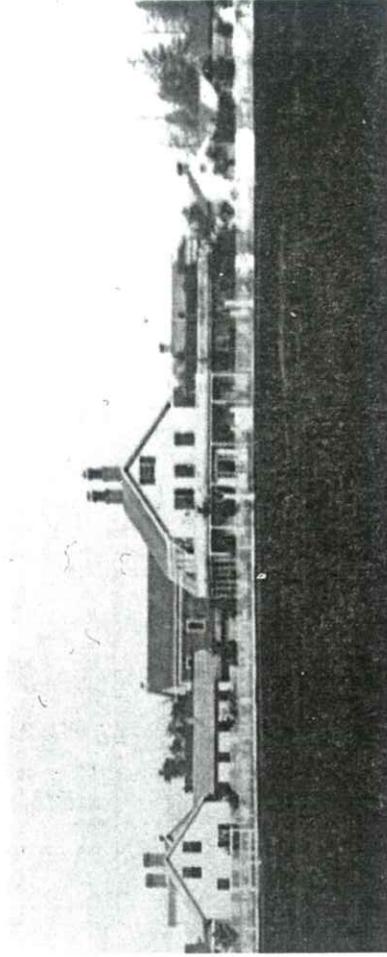


Period of Transition: the U.S. Army Arrives

Kanaka Village is significant to regional history beyond its existence in the fur trade era. It was also the site of the transitional period: an era of upheaval when British influence was waning and the U.S. Army was establishing a permanent presence in the Pacific Northwest. In the earliest days of Vancouver

Barracks, the U.S. Army and the Hudson's Bay Company coexisted amicably. The army was allowed to hire Native American laborers, and rent horses and boats at moderate prices to establish their post, while the Hudson's Bay Company had a ready market for its mercantile trade. The army rented many of the

buildings in the village for housing and storage. In 1850, several new army buildings were constructed in the village area. Captain Rufus Ingalls established the Quartermaster Depot area here, as well as his own house, which he shared with Ulysses S. Grant in 1852-1853.



The Quartermaster's Ranch in the village area, 1860 (Royal Engineers Library, Kent, England)

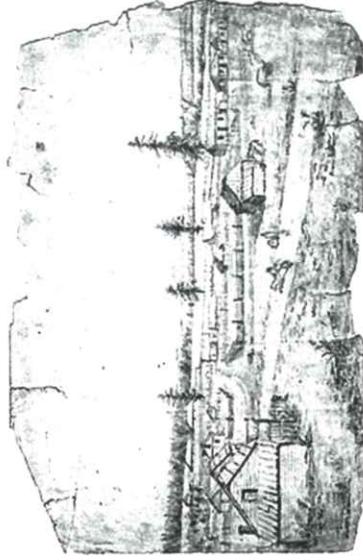
The relations between the U.S. Army and Fort Vancouver steadily deteriorated during the latter half of the 1850s, as each became increasingly aggressive in protecting their land claims. The Company was concerned with maintaining their ownership of areas south of the 49th parallel. The army, on the other hand, came to view land and

buildings not physically occupied by the Company as their own. Matters came to a head when the army destroyed several Company buildings in the village area as they cleared land for a drill ground. With the regional fur trade in decline and relations with the U.S. Army worsening, the Hudson's Bay Company decided to withdraw

entirely to Victoria, B.C. The fort was vacated in June of 1860. The army temporarily occupied some of the buildings but by 1866 fire had removed all above-ground traces of Fort Vancouver and its village. Kanaka Village is the place of a fascinating, overlapping history: the shift of nations in this area and the birth of official American control.

Sharing the Story of the Village

Because of the astounding diversity of Fort Vancouver's population, Kanaka Village holds great potential for enhancing the visitor's experience. As park personnel strive to continually diversify historical interpretation to include multiple perspectives of the history that occurred here, it is fortunate that this area can serve as a background, allowing visitors a connection with the actual physical space of the village. Excavations and analyses of the material culture from the village area can fill in gaps in the historical record. Since many of the employees and their families were illiterate, archaeology can compensate for the lack of first-hand accounts of village life and social organization. The village is a site that allows the inclusion of the lower



The north end of the village area, from an unsigned sketch c. 1851 (National Park Service)

non-British ethnicities into the story. The National Park Service is engaged in discussion with local Hawaiian and Native American communities as the site's program incorporates the area of the village and its inhabitants. Kanaka Village is the location of some of the most

Fort Vancouver and Vancouver Barracks. Its demography and social history represent the true context of the regional fur trade industry and political transitions. The resources here remain an integral part of the National Park Service's duty to protect and share this historic site.

